Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (new): A virion of a pneumovirus comprising a viral genome that has a mutation in a gene coding for a protein that is essential for infectivity of the pneumovirus, wherein the mutation causes a virus produced from only the viral genome to lack infectivity, and wherein the virion comprises the protein in a form and in an amount that is required for infectivity of the virion.

Claim 21 (new): The virion according to claim 20, wherein the pneumovirus is a Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

Claim 22 (new): The virion according to claim 20, wherein the gene codes for a G attachment protein.

Claim 23 (new): The virion according to claim 20, wherein the mutation causes the virus produced from only the viral genome to lack the protein.

Claim 24 (new): The virion according to claim 20, wherein the mutation comprises deletion of the sequence coding for the protein.

Claim 25 (new): A method for producing pneumoviral virions, the virions comprising a viral genome that has a mutation in a gene coding for a protein that is essential for (*in vivo*) infectivity of the pneumovirus, wherein the mutuation causes a virus produced from only the viral genome to lack infectivity, and wherein the virion comprises the protein in a form and in an amount that is required for infectivity of the virion, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) infecting a culture of a first host cell with a pneumovirus comprising a viral genome that has the mutation, wherein the host cell comprises an expression vector which directs expression in the host cell of the protein in a form and in an amount that is required for infectivity of the virion; and

(b) recovery of the virions from the infected host cell culture.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to claim 25, wherein the pneumovirus that is used to infect the culture of the first host cell culture is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing to a second host cell one or more expression vectors which direct expression in the host cell of:

i) a viral genomic RNA that has a mutation in a gene coding for a protein that is essential for (*in vivo*) infectivity of the pneumovirus, wherein the mutation causes a virus produced from only the viral genome to lack infectivity; and

ii) a pneumoviral polymerase enzyme complex and optionally one or more further viral proteins; and

(b) culturing the second host cell whereby the virions are produced.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to claim 26, further comprising amplifying the virions produced by the second host cell by one or more further cellular infection steps employing host cells which are the same or different from the second host cell.

Claim 28 (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the viral genomic RNA is transcribed from a viral DNA copy that is under the control of a bacteriophage DNA-dependent RNA polymerase promoter and wherein the host cell is provided with an expression vector which directs expression in the host cell of the bacteriophage DNA-dependent RNA polymerase.

Claim 29 (new): The method according to claim 28, wherein the bacteriophage DNA-dependent RNA polymerase is a T7, T3 or SP6 polymerase.

Claim 30 (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein the pneumoviral polymerase enzyme complex at least includes L, P, N proteins.

Claim 31 (new): The method according to claim 26, wherein one or more further viral proteins is a pneumoviral matrix membrane protein, preferably the M2-1 protein.

Claim 32 (new): The method according to claim 31, wherein the pneumoviral matrix membrane protein is an M2-1 protein.

Claim 33 (new): The method according to claim 25, wherein the pneumovirus is a Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

Claim 34 (new): The method according to claim 25, wherein the gene coding for the protein that is essential for infectivity is a gene coding for a G attachment protein.

Claim 35 (new): A composition comprising a virion as defined in claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said virion obtainable in the method as defined in claim 25.

Claim 36 (new): A method for producing a medicament for the prevention or treatment of a pneumoviral infection, comprising manufacturing a virion as defined in claim 20.

Claim 37 (new): The method according to claim 36, wherein the medicament is a preparation for intranasal administration.

Claim 38 (new): A method for the prevention or treatment of a pneumoviral infection, comprising the step of administering to a subject a composition comprising a virion as defined in claim 20 in an amount effective to prevent or treat the infection.

Claim 39 (new): The method according to claim 38, wherein the composition is administered intranasally.